

Clay Spur Bentonite Plant and Camp, Butler Storage
Clay Spur Siding on the Burlington Northern
Railroad
4 miles northwest of Osage
Weston County
Wyoming

HAER No. WY-23-H

HAER
WY-23-OSAGE V,
1-H-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Engineering Record
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior
P. O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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Clay Spur Bentonite Plant and Camp, Butler Storage

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Location: Clay Spur Siding on the Burlington Northern Railroad,
4 miles northwest of Osage in Weston County, Wyoming

Dates of Construction: ca. 1940

Present Owner: N. L. Baroid
Alzada Star Route
Belle Fourche, South Dakota

Present Use: Abandoned; site to be razed

Significance: The Clay Spur Bentonite Plant and Camp is associated with the early 20th century bentonite mining industry in Wyoming and the United States. The Clay Spur Bentonite District was the center of the pioneer Wyoming bentonite industry and remained the premier Wyoming producing district until reserves began to dwindle in the 1950s. The plant embodies the distinctive engineering technology of the bentonite industry. The camp also reflects early twentieth century company town architecture with simple buildings and floor plans that could be quickly and cheaply constructed and adapted to many different uses.

Behind the garage is a one-story metal Butler storage building, 18 feet east-west by 12 feet north-south, with a gable roof. The roof and walls are constructed with ribbed steel sheeting. The building rests on wooden timbers. It has a metal door with four lights and a four-light hinged window with metal frames in the north and south elevations. A round metal ventilator protrudes from the roof. It appears that the building was used for record storage, and it still contains numerous claim maps, plant records, and building plans and blueprints. It was added to the complex sometime between 1940 and 1957.

Historian: Robert Rosenberg
Historical Consultant

July 1989

NOTE: For more information, see Clay Spur Bentonite Plant and Camp,
HAER No. WY-23.